

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/652,330

Applicant(s)

LANG, ERIC G.

Examiner

Kimnhung Nguyen

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 2-8-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12-22, 24-35, 37 and 38.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 8-31-2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

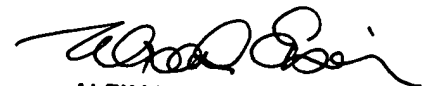
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ALEXANDER EISEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

DETAILED ACTION

This Application has been examined. The claims 1-10, 12-22, 24-35 and 37-38 are pending.

Examiner's Amendment

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Wilson, Tadd on 4/13/05.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for inputting an information element from an information element set in an information processing device having a multiple axes input key movable in M multi-axial directions, said method comprising the acts of:
 - moving the key in one of the M multi-axial directions to generate a selection stroke;
 - repeating said act of moving the key N number of times to generate N selection strokes, a pattern of N selection strokes with each stroke being in one of M multiple-axial directions defining the information to be input to the information processing device; and
 - wherein the number of selection strokes N is given by a logarithmic value of a number of information elements in the information element set to a base M where M is the number of possible directions available from the multiple axes input key for each selection stroke.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for interpreting a sequence of input strokes by a multiple axes input key to input an information element into a computing system, said method comprising:

Art Unit: 2674

drawing a display of the selectable information element set in a pattern illustrating input key stroke directions for selecting subsets of the selectable information element set with the input key;

detecting a multi-axial key stroke direction from movement of the input key;

identifying from the key stroke direction a selected subset of the selectable information element set;

repeating the detecting action and identifying action for a predetermined number of strokes N by the input key so that the identifying step after the last stroke of the input key identifies a selected information element to be loaded into the computing system; and

wherein the predetermined number of strokes N is given by a logarithmic value of a number of the selectable information elements in the selectable information element set to a base M where M is a number of possible direction available from the input key for each selection stroke.

15. (Currently Amended) A user interface method in a computing system for inputting a plurality of information elements through a single input device capable of multiple axes strokes, said interface method comprising:

entering a multi-axial directional stroke with the input device to select a subset of information elements to be selected;

repeating said entering step for a predetermined number of strokes N until a desired information element is selected and where the predetermined number of strokes N is identical for each input of a selected information element; and

wherein the predetermined number of strokes N is given by a logarithmic value of the

Art Unit: 2674

number of the information elements in an information element set to a base M where M is a number of possible directions available from the input device for each selection stroke.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing a computer process for interpreting a sequence of input strokes by a multi-directional input key to input an information element into a computing system, said method comprising:

- drawing a display of the selectable information element set in a pattern illustrating input key stroke directions for selecting subsets of the selectable information element set with the input key;

- detecting a key stroke direction from movement of the input key;

- identifying from the key stroke direction a selected subset of the selectable information element set;

- repeating the detecting action and identifying action for a predetermined number of strokes N by the input key so that the identifying step after the last stroke of the input key identifies a selected information element to be loaded into the computing system; and

- wherein the predetermined number of strokes N is given by a logarithmic value of a number of the selectable information elements in the selectable information element set to a base M where M is a number of possible directions available from the input key for each selection stroke.

Art Unit: 2674

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimnhung Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7698. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI, FROM 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kimnhung Nguyen
April 14, 2005



**ALEXANDER EISEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**